

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 309911  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE  
APPROVED BY AF/WCHARROP  
AF/S:JDAVIDOW (SUBS)  
NSC:HRICHARDSON(SUBS)  
AF/E: RPOST (SUBS)  
S/S-O:SESTEINER

-----036223 300105Z /12

O 300036Z DEC 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 309911

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS - 1

TAGS: PDIP, RH, ZA, US

SUBJECT: MARK CHONA'S VISIT

REFS:A) LUSAKA 3900; B) STATE 304258

1. REGRET OVERSIGHT. REFTEL B WAS DRAFTED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER 9 REPLY TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S NOVEMBER 24 LETTER HAD BEEN ROUTINELY CABLED TO POST. TEXT FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: QTE DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, THANK YOU FOR SENDING ME YOUR LATEST THOUGHTS ON THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM. AND I APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO YOU PERSONALLY ON THE TELEPHONE DECEMBER 6, AND TO HAVE REAFFIRMED OUR CONTINUING COOPERATION ON RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM. I AM CONFIDENTIAL

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SENDING THIS LETTER BY MARK CHONA FROM MY MEETING WITH HIM.

YOU KNOW HOW HIGHLY I VALUE YOUR EXPERIENCE AND COUNSEL, AND HOW MUCH I RESPECT YOUR COMMITMENT. I AM GLAD THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE UNITED STATES' DEEP COMMITMENT TO HELP BRING MAJORITY RULE TO ZIMBABWE. I AM GLAD, TOO, THAT WE AGREE

THAT THE TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE MUST COME AS SOON AS

POSSIBLE, TO AVERT FURTHER VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED AMONG  
PEOPLE WHO HAVE ALREADY SEEN TOO MUCH OF BOTH.

I WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER THE IDEAS YOU PRESENT IN THE  
MEMORANDUM ACCOMPANYING YOUR LETTER. WE AGREE THAT THE  
DEMOCRATIC IDEAL TO WHICH YOUR NATION AND MINE SUB-  
SCRIBE DICTATES THAT ZIMBABWE'S NEW LEADERS BE CHOSEN  
WITHOUT INTIMIDATION AND VIOLENCE. I UNDERSTAND YOUR FEAR  
THAT THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD ENVISAGED UNDER THE BRITISH-  
AMERICAN PROPOSALS WILL NOT CREATE THE RIGHT ATMOSPHERE FOR  
PEACEFUL ELECTIONS. BUT IN THE SPIRIT OF CANDOR WHICH  
CHARACTERIZES OUR RELATIONSHIP, I MUST SAY THAT, WHILE  
ORGANIZING AND HOLDING FREE ELECTIONS WITHOUT VIOLENCE  
DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD WILL NOT BE EASY, IT SHOULD  
NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE. WITH GOODWILL AND DETERMINATION FROM  
THE PARTIES AND STATES INVOLVED, INCLUDING YOUR COUNTRY AND  
MINE, IT CAN BE DONE.

IN THE COMING WEEKS WE SHALL BE CONSULTING FURTHER ABOUT  
THE APPROPRIATE STEPS TO TAKE TOWARD OUR SHARED GOAL OF  
MAJORITY RULE AND INDEPENDENCE FOR ZIMBABWE. WE WILL TAKE  
YOUR CONCERNS VERY SERIOUSLY AS WE TRY TO ENSURE THAT THE  
ELECTIONS CAN BE CONDUCTED WITHOUT INTIMIDATION OR CONFLICT.

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I WAS VERY GLAD TO HEAR FROM AMBASSADOR LOW THAT YOU HAVE  
ACCEPTED, IN PRINCIPLE, MY INVITATION TO PAY A STATE VISIT  
TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1978. ALTHOUGH WE BOTH KNOW FROM  
EXPERIENCE HOW EVENTS CAN ALTER SUCH PLANS, I HOPE THAT  
NEXT SPRING WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SIT DOWN  
TOGETHER AND CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE IN A PERSONAL SPIRIT OF  
SHARED COMMITMENT, FRIENDSHIP, AND COMMON PURPOSE.  
SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 78 LUSAKA 3900, 78 STATE 304258  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 154823  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MARK CHONA\VISIT  
**TAGS:** PDIP, RH, ZA, US  
**To:** LUSAKA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009